

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /118 W

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R 250418Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5065

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL KUALA LUMPUR 3779

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, RP

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES.

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 3776 (NOTAL)

(B) KUALA LUMPUR 3520

(C) KUALA LUMPUR 3086 (NOTAL)

1. RAZAK TOLD ME AUGUST 23 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DELEGATION FROM THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH THEIR VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES. THEY WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE BRIEFINGS THEY HAD RECEIVED, PARTICULARLY THE PERSONAL ATTENTION DEVOTED TO THEM BY PRESIDENT MARCOS. RAZAK SAID THE VITAL FACTOR NOW IS FOR MARCOS TO DEMONSTRATE BY ACTS, NOT MERELY RHETORIC, HIS SINCERE INTENTION TO STOP THE FIGHING AND TO CONCILIATE THE MUSLIM POPULATION.

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2. RAZAK SAID THAT MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA ARE PREPARED TO LEND WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THEY COULD TO THE GOP TO ASSIST CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE REHABILITATION OF THE MUSLIM AREAS BUT THAT THIS ASSISTANCE COULD NOT BE OFFERED UNLESS AND UNTIL THE GOP CEASES THE FIGHING AND AT LEAST BEGINS TO GAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MUSLIM LEADERS FOR A MEANINGFUL PROGRAM OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REHABILITATION. RAZAK SAID IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EITHER MALAYSIA OR INDONESIA TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES PROBLEM AS LONG AS THE HOSTILITIES AND ANTAGONISMS ARE AT SUCH HIGH PITCH. HE CLAIMED THAT THE MUSLIM DISSIDENTS ARE DESPERATE MEN WHO, KNOWING THAT THEY COULD NOT WIN AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FORCES, NEVERTHELESS WERE FORCED INTO VIOLENCE BECAUSE OF THE HOPELESSNESS OF THEIR SITUATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ON THE STATUS OF THE TALKS WITH THE PHILIPPINES ON THE SABAH CLAIM, RAZAK SAID THAT THE SABAH CLAIM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROBLEM IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, ALTHOUGH ITS RESOLUTION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON SYMPATHIZERS WITH THE PHILIPPINE MUSLIMS LIVING IN SABAH. RAZAK SAID THE LAST PLAY IN THIS GAME WAS WHEN ROMULO HAD TOLD HIM THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS PREPARED TO "SETTLE" THE SABAH CLAIM IF RAZAK WOULD COME TO MANILA. RAZAK REPLIED HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO GO TO MANILA BUT, BEFORE DOING SO, WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF SETTLEMENT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS IN MIND. ROMULO PRESUMABLY RETURNED TO MANILA TO DETERMINE THIS, BUT THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO CLARIFICATION. MEANWHILE, SAID RAZAK, ADAM MALIK IS EXPLORING WAYS HOPEFULLY TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE QUESTION. RAZAK CONCLUDED THAT THE GOM POSITION IS WELL KNOWN AND ANY MOVEMENT WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN MANILA.

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